In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing information relating to a patient in a hospital environment comprising:

a plurality of information processing systems including a laboratory information system for processing data related to performing, tracking and managing laboratory tests and a pharmacy information system for processing data related to performing, tracking and managing pharmacy tasks and usable by a pharmacist, for processing ~~said~~ information relating to ~~said~~ a patient, each of said plurality of information processing systems being associated with a respective department in a hospital responsible for implementing a particular hospital function;

~~a portable data terminal for receipt and transmission of said information relating to said patient; and~~ a control server in communication with each of said plurality of information processing systems ~~and said portable data terminal~~ for managing department specific patient related ~~said~~ information; ~~relating to said patient~~

a portable data terminal enabling bidirectional communication between said portable data terminal and said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system via said control server, said portable data terminal receiving data representing at least one healthcare task to be performed on said patient and laboratory test result information from said laboratory information system and medication related information from said pharmacy information system for display on said portable data terminal useable by a healthcare professional and conveying test and medication administration related data input using said portable data by a user to said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system .

2. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system are in integrated bidirectional communication with said portable data terminal, said plurality of information processing systems ~~are selected from a group consisting of~~ comprising hospital information systems, pharmacy information systems, radiology information systems and accounting information systems, and

said healthcare task includes at least one medication administration event, a test conducted on a patient, specimen collection and a billing process.

3. (Currently Amended)   A system as in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of portable data terminals ~~associated with respective different patient units each in integrated bidirectional communication with said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system, and~~ wherein

said control server ~~is in~~ automatically conveys laboratory test information received from said laboratory information system and medication related information received from said pharmacy information system for a patient to a corresponding portable data terminal in said respective patient unit for display on said portable data terminal, said test information and said medication related information indicate tasks to be performed on said patient in said respective unit ~~communication between each of said plurality of information processing systems~~ and ~~each of said plurality of data terminals in for managing said information relating to said patient.~~

4. (Original)   A system as in claim 1, further comprising a terminal server associated with said portable data terminal, said terminal server providing communication between said portable data terminal and said control server

5. (Currently Amended)   A system as in claim 4, further comprising a plurality of terminal servers each associated with a plurality of portable data terminals, said plurality of terminal servers each providing bi-directional communication between said plurality of portable data terminals and said control server.

6. (Original)   A system as in claim 5, wherein said communication between said plurality of portable data terminals and said control server is conducted through a local area network.

7. (Currently Amended)   A system as in claim 1, wherein said portable data terminal includes ~~a microprocessor, reading means, and printing means, said reading means capable of reading identification information from a patient identification code and printing a corresponding information label, and said microprocessor capable of storing data relating to said identification information and said printed information label for transmission to said plurality of said information systems through said control server~~

a bar code scanner for reading identification information from a patient identification code for use in associating a patient identifier with at least one of (a) test information being conveyed to said laboratory information system and (b) medication related information to said pharmacy information system;

a printer for printing a corresponding information label including information read by said bar code scanner and conveyed to said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system; and

a microprocessor electrically coupled to said bar code scanner and said printer for storing data relating to said identification information and said printed information label and communicating said at least one of (a) test information being conveyed to said laboratory information system and (b) medication related information to said pharmacy information system for automatic integration into a patient record.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 7, wherein said ~~reading means is a bar code scanner~~ test information and medication related information associated with said patient and communicated by said microprocessor to said laboratory information system and pharmacy information system is used in determining a healthcare task to be performed on said patient and said microprocessor receives data representing said determined task for display on said portable data terminal.

9. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of information processing systems are in communication with each other through said control server.

10. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said portable data terminal is capable of periodic communication with said control server for intermittent interfacing with said plurality of information processing systems for receiving said information relating to said patient from said plurality of information processing systems through said control server and for transferring data relating to said patient from said portable data terminal to said plurality of information processing systems through said control server.

11. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein said periodic communication is established through radio frequency communication.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for managing sample collection information and medication information relating to a patient in a hospital environment comprising:

a laboratory information processing system for processing ~~said~~ a sample collection information relating to ~~said~~ a patient for use in determining at least one healthcare task to be performed on said patient;

a pharmacy information processing system for processing said medication information relating to said patient for use in determining said at least one healthcare task to be performed on said patient;

~~a portable data terminal for receipt and transmission of said sample collection information and said medication information~~; and

a control server enabling ~~in one way or two-way~~ bidirectional communication with said laboratory information processing system, said pharmacy information processing system and ~~said~~ a portable data terminal, said portable data terminal being for

managing and displaying said sample collection information and said medication information relating to said patient received by said portable data terminal and including said at least one healthcare task to be performed on said patient including collecting a sample from said patient and administering medication to said patient,~~; wherein~~

~~said portable data terminal is capable of periodic communication~~ periodically communicating with said control server for intermittent interfacing with said laboratory information processing system for receiving said sample collection information relating to said patient and with said pharmacy information processing system for receiving said medication information relating to said patient, ~~and for~~

enabling input of data including sample collection data and medication administration data by a healthcare professional at a patient bedside, and

transferring sample collection data relating to said patient taken in response to said sample collection information from said portable data terminal to said laboratory information system and ~~for transferring~~ medication data relating to said patient administered in response to said medication information from said portable data terminal to said pharmacy information system for incorporation into a patient record.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein said healthcare task includes any of (a) blood collection, (b) collection of patient information, (c) confirmation of sampling of patient specimens, (d) antibiotic distribution, (e) conducting tests, and (f) administration of medicine~~for managing information relating to a patient in a~~

~~hospital environment comprising: a plurality of information processing systems for~~
~~processing said information relating to said patient; a portable data terminal for collection of~~
~~data relating to assessment of said patient and transmission of said data; and a control server~~
~~in communication with each of said plurality of information processing systems and said~~
~~portable data terminal for transferring said data from said portable data terminal to said~~
~~plurality of information processing systems.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A method for managing patient information relating to a
patient in a hospital environment comprising: a) providing a plurality of information systems
for processing information relating to said patient; b) providing a portable data terminal; c)
transferring said information from said plurality of information systems to a control server; d)
accessing said information transferred to said control server through a portable data terminal;
e) conducting procedures according to said information accessed by said portable data
terminal; f) storing data in said portable data terminal relating to said procedures conducted;
~~and~~ g) transferring said stored data from said portable data terminal to said plurality of
information systems through said control server; and h) forwarding specific information
relating to said patient to one or some of said plurality of portable data terminals; wherein
said accessing step d) and said transferring step g) are accomplished through at least one of: a
terminal server or a docking station.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original)   A method as in claim 14, wherein said terminal server serves a
plurality of portable data terminals for accessing information, storing data and transferring of
stored data.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for managing patient sample collection
information and patient medication information in a hospital environment comprising: a)
providing a laboratory information system for managing said patient sample collection
information relating to sample collection and analysis; b) providing a pharmacy information
system for managing said patient medication information relating to medication prescribing
and administering; c) providing a portable data terminal; d) transferring said sample
collection information from said laboratory information system and said medication
administering information from said pharmacy information system to a control server; e)

accessing said sample collection information and said medication administering information transferred to said control server through a portable data terminal; f) collecting samples according to said sample collection information transferred to said portable data terminal and administering medication according to said medication administering information accessed by said portable data terminal; g) storing data in said portable data terminal relating to said collected samples and said dispensed medication; ~~and~~ h) transferring said stored data from said portable data terminal to said laboratory information system and said pharmacy information system through said control server; and i) forwarding specific sample collection information relating to said patient to one or some of said plurality of portable data terminals; wherein said accessing step e) and said transferring step h) are accomplished through at least one of: a terminal server or a docking station.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein said accessing step e) and said transferring step h) are accomplished through a terminal server.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 18, wherein said terminal server serves a plurality of portable data terminals for accessing information, storing data and transferring of stored data.